

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE -- KOREA

1. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE PREPARED AUGUST 5 FOR DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN.

2. QUOTE QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE
NORTH KOREAN REJECTION OF THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL FOR
THE FOUR-POWER CONFERENCE ON KOREA?

3. ANSWER: IT IS, OF COURSE, UNFORTUNATE THAT NORTH
KOREA DOES NOT WISH TO SEEK RESOLUTION OF THE KOREAN QUES-
TION THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE PARTIES CONCERNED.
WE NOTE THAT IN ITS REJECTION THE NORTH SPOKE ABOUT TEN-
SIONS ON THE PENINSULA AND THE DANGER OF WAR. WE THEREFORE
PARTICULARLY REGRET THAT NORTH KOREA IS UNWILLING TO
ACCEPT OUR INVITATION TO A CONFERENCE OF ALL THE PARTIES
CONCERNED TO DISCUSS MEASURES TO REDUCE TENSIONS ON THE
PENINSULA AND ESTABLISH MORE LASTING ARRANGEMENTS TO
ENSURE THE PEACE IN KOREA.

4. QUESTION: IS THERE ANY CHANGE IN US FORCES WHICH
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WOULD JUSTIFY THE NORTH KOREAN CHARGES OF WAR PREPARATION?

5. ANSWER: OF COURSE NOT.

6. BACKGROUND: ON AUGUST 5 THE NORTH KOREAN RADIO BROADCAST A LONG ATTACK ON THE US, STATING THAT THE US AND ROK HAD "COMPLETED THE PREPARATIONS" FOR WAR AND THAT WAR MIGHT BREAK OUT AT ANY TIME. THE PYONGYANG GOVERNMENT ALSO SAID THAT THE SECRETARY'S JULY 22 PROPOSAL FOR A FOUR-POWER CONFERENCE ON KOREA REPRESENTED "STALLING TACTICS" TO IMPEDE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE (HOSTILE) RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE LAST UNGA. THE NORTH ALSO DEMANDED UNC AND US WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH KOREA. END QUOTE

7. NO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED AT AUGUST 6 NOON BRIEFING ON THIS SUBJECT. HABIB

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